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BREWER ON THE AMERICAN TROTTING-HORSE.¹ — Professor Brewer treats of the American trotting-horse as a breed in process of formation. Prior to the present century it was the racer that was valued; the draught-horse was but a slave. Representations of horses on Egyptian, Ninevite, Greek and Roman remains show no trotting-horses, and the forms of the animals prove that their racers could not compare in speed with modern ones.

With the improvement of roads, more attention was given to the horse as a beast of draught, and various causes combined in this country to bring about that love for a quick trotting-horse which has produced such remarkable results. Among these causes are fashion—the existence of a class with whom it was fashionable to drive one horse before a light carriage. This fashion was to a great extent created by the laws against racing that were enacted through the puritanic prejudices of the settlers. To trot one horse against time was not *racing* in a technical sense. Other causes were improvements in wagons and the invention of steel springs; the possession of hickory to make light wagons of, and the necessities of modern travel.

The American trotting-horse is a cross between the English thoroughbred and the common stock of the country, which last is a mongrel derived from English, French, Dutch and even Swedish and Spanish sources.

LECTURES TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILWAY.² — These clearly-written lectures may be read with profit by many others besides those for whom they were specially prepared, and among whom, through M. Garrett, the president of the road, the printed copies are distributed gratis. In the first, "How Skulls and Backbones are built," Dr. H. N. Martin passes in review the principal features, especially the protective uses, of the vertebrate skeleton; in "How we Move," Dr. Sewall explains in easy English the action of nerve and muscle; "Fermentation" is the subject of Dr. Sedgwick; and Dr. Brooks treats of the locomotive methods of some invertebrate animals.

Lectures such as these, on scientific subjects, or on art or history, themselves part of social science, would do more, in able hands, to close saloons and put down the coarser forms of vice than all the repressive measures that can be enacted. What all men (and women) need is recreation, and in some shape or other they will get it. Whoever provides a recreation of higher grade than that previously indulged in by the class it appeals to, is a benefactor of society.

¹ *The American Trotting-horse*, Why he is and What he is. By Professor W. H. BREWER. Ext. from the report Conn. Board of Agriculture. Also *The Evolution of the American Trotting-horse*. Ext. Amer. Jour. Sci. April, 1883.

² *Lectures delivered to the Employés of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway*, by Professor H. N. MARTIN and Drs. H. SEWALL, W. T. SEDGWICK and W. K. BROOKS, of the Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, 1882.

BULLETINS OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.¹—Bulletin No. 1 contains reports of experiments; chiefly with emulsion of kerosene, upon various insects that injuriously affect the orange tree and cotton plant. These kerosene emulsions appear to be to a great extent successful, both against scale insects and the cotton-worm.

According to Bulletin No. 2, *Caloptenus spretus*, the Rocky Mountain locust, was generally scarce in 1882, so much so that Western farmers have little to fear from it during the present year.

Professor S. A. Forbes has experimented with emulsion of kerosene upon the chinch-bug with good results. He finds that soapsuds (1 lb. soap to 10 galls. water) mixed with an equal quantity of oil, make a good emulsion, so that the addition of milk is not necessary. These fluids accomplish their work as well when poured on with a sprinkler as when applied forcibly in a spray, and kill the adult bugs as easily as the young.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Hayden, F. V., and Setwyn, A. R. C.—Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel. North America. Edward Stanford. London, 1883. From Dr. F. V. Hayden.

Dollo, M. L.—Troisième note sur les Dinosauriens de Bernissart. Ext. du Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle de Belgique. 1883. From the author.

Lewis, H. C.—The great Ice Age of Pennsylvania. Reprint from Journal Franklin Institute, April, 1883.

—The Geology of Philadelphia. Reprint idem, June, 1883. Both from the author.
International Geological Commission.—Reports of Sub-committees. Permian and Trias, by A. Irving. Miocene and Eocene, by J. S. Gardner. Pliocene and Post-pliocene, by H. B. Woodward. From the commission.

Minot, C. S.—Is Man the highest Animal? Ext. Proc. Amer. Assoc. Advancement of Science, 1881. From the author.

Hughes, T. McKenny.—Memoir E. B. Tawney. Ext. Geol. Magazine, March 1883.

—On the relation of the appearance and duration of the various forms of life upon the earth to the breaks in the continuity of the sedimentary strata. Ext. Proc. Cambridge Philosophical Society. Both from the author.

Putnam, F. W.—Notes on copper implements from Mexico. Ext. Proc. Amer. Antiquarian Society, Oct. 21, 1882. From the author.

Hoffmann, C. K.—Dr. H. G. Bronn's Klassen und Ordnungen des Thier-reichs. Reptilien. Leipzig und Heidelberg, C. F. Winter.

Kansas Academy of Science.—Transactions, Vol. VIII, 1881–82. From F. H. Snow.

Clevenger, S. V.—Plan of the cerebro-spinal nervous system. Ext. from Rep. Boston Meeting of the Amer. Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, Aug., 1880. From the author.

Lemoine, V.—Etude sur le Neoplagiaulax de la faune Eocène inférieure des environs de Rheims. Ext. du Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France, Février 12, 1883. From the author.

Renevier, E.—Unification Géologique. Propositions du Comité Suisse aux Commissions Internationales. Ext. Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles Genève, Mai, 1883. From the author.

¹ U. S. Department of Agriculture. Division of Entomology. Bull. Nos. 1 and 2. C. V. RILEY, entomologist.